(d) Open Market Sales Scheme for domestic use for Wheat and Rice is already in vogue since October, 93 and January, 1994 respectively.

Exploitation of Women Agricultural Workers in Maharashtra

978. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that because of acute under employment and low collective bargaining power, the women agricultural workers in Maharashtra are not only being paid less wages but are also being exploited to the extent possible;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the remedial measures Government propose to take to ensure equal wages, jobs security and end of exploitations of women agricultural workers in Maharashtra?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of Sabha.

Exploration of Reserves of Diamonds in Andhra Pradesh

979. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD:
DR. MOHAN BABU:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether modern international technology would be introduced in exploiting large scale reserves of diamonds located in Mahboobnagar, Cuddapah and Ananthpur Districts of Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the Government would co-ordinate with Andhra Pradesh Mineral Development Corporation in examining the bids before awarding the contract?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV): (a) to (c) The National Mineral Policy, 1993 envisages, *inter-alia*, induction of modern technology for high value and scarce minerals, through private participation. The grant of Prospecting Licence and Mining Lease is governed by the Mines and Minerals (Regulation & Development) Act, 1957 and the rules made thereunder. The application for grant of Prospecting Licence/Mining Lease is to be made to the State Government only. As diamond is included in the 1st schedule of Mines and Minerals (Regulations & Development) Act, 1957, prior approval of Central Government is required before grant of Prospecting Licence/ Mining Leases.

Contribution of Private Sector Towards Employment Generation

980. SHRI MD. SALIM: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the rate of growth of unemployment and placement during the Eighth Five Year Plan period; and

(b) the contribution of big and medium scale private sector with regard to employment generation during the entire Seventh and Eighth plan period?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) Estimates of employment and unemployment are obtained from the Labour Force Surveys conducted by the National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) once in a period of five years. The last such survey was carried out in 1993-94. As per the key results published by NSSO, the number of persons employed and unemployed according to usual status were as follows:—

Employed per 1000 persons

		1993-94	1987-88
Rural	Male	553	539
	Female	328	323
Urban	Male	520	506
	Female	154	152

Unemployed per 1000 in Labour Force

		1993-94	1987-88
Rural	Male	20	28
	Female	13	35
Urban	Male	45	61
	Female	83	85

(b) Employment in the organised private sector (all non-agricultural establishments in the private sector with 10 or more workers), as on 31st March of 1985 (beginning of the seventh Plan), 1990 (end of the Seventh Plan), 1992 (beginning of the Eighth Plan) and 1996 was as indicated below:—

As on 31st March	Employment (lakh)
1985	73.09
1990	75.82
1992	78.50
1996	84.68

Slippage in India's Export Growth rate

981. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the editorial captioned "India's Foreign trade losses bounce" in the Financial Express, New Delhi, dated 4th November, 1996;

(b) whether the country's export growth has slowed down to 9.9 per cent in April-September this year from close to 27 per cent in the first half by last year;

(c) whether it is a fact that a report on global competitivenss of 49 countries shows that India slipped from the 35th position in 1994 to the 45th position currently;

(d) if so, the main reasons therefor; and

(e) steps Government have taken so far to achieve their trade growth targets for 1996-97?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As per DGCI&S data, growth in exports in dollar terms during April-September of the current financial year has been 9.91% over the corresponding period in 1995-96 compared to overall annual growth of 18.4% in 1994-95 & 21.0% in 1995-96.

(c) and (d) Sir, a study by the World Economic Forum a private organisation, based in Switzerland appears to have indicated a decline in India's ranking in world competitiveness. However, as per WTO data, India's ranking in world exports has slightly improved in 1995.

(e) Export Promotion is a continuous process and steps are initiated by the Government to promote exports through simplification of policies and procedures, improving bilateral trade, debottlenecking of export infrastructure and giving special thrust to value added exports.

देश में खनिजों का उत्पादन

982. **श्री चिमनभाई हरिभाई शुक्ल:** क्या खान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) गत तीन वर्षों में खनिजों का राज्य-वार और वर्ष-वार कितना-कितना उत्पादन हुआ;

(ख) क्या यह उत्पादन देश की मांग को पूरा करने के लिए पर्याप्त है;

(ग) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है; और

(घ) यदि नहीं, तो सरकार द्वारा खनिजों का उत्पादन बढ़ाने के लिए क्या कदम उठाए गए हैं अथवा उठाए जाने का विचार है?

खान मंत्री तथा नागरिक आपूर्ति, उपभोक्ता मामले और सार्वजनिक वितरण मंत्री (श्री देवेन्द्र प्रसाद यादव): (क) वर्ष 1993-94 से 1995-96 के दौरान राज्यवार खनिज उत्पादन अनुबंध में दिया गया है। (देखिए परिशिष्ट 179, अनुपत्र संख्या 19)

(ख) से (ग) भारत फिलहाल खनिज आधारित उद्योगों के लिए बहुत से खनिजों में आमतौर पर आत्मनिर्भर है। देश कुल मिलाकर धात्विक खनिजों में कोयले (बेहदनिम्न किस्म को कोकिंग कोल के सिवाय) लिग्नाइट, बाक्साइट, क्रोमाइट, लौह तथा मैंगनीज अयस्क, इल्मेनाइट, स्टाइल तथा क्राइसोटाइल एवं एस्बेस्टोस, बोरेइस, पोटाश, रॉक फास्फेट और एलीमेंटल सल्फर को छोड़कर लगभग सभी औद्योगिक खनिजों में आत्मनिर्भर है। आत्मनिर्भरता के बावजूद विशेष ग्रेड के फ्लोर्सपर, फ्लेकी और हाई फिकस्ड कार्बन वाले एमोरफोस ग्रेफाइट, निम्न सिलिका, चूनापत्थर, मृत-जला मैग्नेशिया तथा समुद्री जल मैग्नेशिया इत्यादि आयात किये जाते हैं। भारत अपने मूल्य वर्धित पुनर्निर्यात के लिए कच्चे बिनाकटे हीरे, माणिक्य तथा अन्य बहुमूल्य तथा अर्द्ध-कीमती पत्थरों के आयात पर भी निर्भर कर रहा है।

(घ) नई राष्ट्रीय खनिज नीति, 1993 में अन्य बातों के साथ-साथ, गवेषण और खनन के क्षेत्र में घरेलू तथा विदेशी दोनों निजी क्षेत्रों द्वारा निवेश का प्रावधान है। 1994 में खान और खनिज (विनियमन और विकास) अधिनियम 1957 में किए गए संशोधन से उसे निजी निवेशों में आसानी होगी। इससे देश में खनिजों के उत्पादन में बढ़ोतरी होगी।